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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W
---------- 090005
R 211405Z JUL 76
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1707
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0210
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0403

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY 12-18, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT THE JULY 15 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, HUNGARIAN REP FODOR STATED THAT THE WEST'S DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE EAST'S
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JUNE 10 DATA MOVE RAISED DOUBTS AS TO WESTERN INTENTIONS

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IN INSISTING FOR SO LONG THAT EASTERN DATA WAS NECESSARY.
THE JULY 13 INFORMAL SESSION WAS UNEVENTFUL.
WESTERN REPS MADE THE CASE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE
METHOD OF EVALUATION OF WESTERN PROPOSALS WOULD
SHOW THE WEST WAS OFFERING AS MUCH AS IT WAS ASKING
FROM THE EAST, WHILE EASTERN REPS STRESSED THE
MERITS OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL. END
SUMMARY.

2. HUNGARIAN REP FODOR MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT
AT THE JULY 15 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA TALKS.
HIS PRESENTATION INCLUDED A COMMENT THAT THE WEST'S
DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE TABLING JUNE 10 BY THE
EAST OF DATA ON WARSAW PACT MANPOWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE
RAISED DOUBTS AS TO WESTERN INTENTIONS IN
INSISTING FOR SO LONG THAT EASTERN DATA WAS
NECESSARY. FODOR FURTHER WONDERED HOW WESTERN
PARTICIPANTS COULD CALL THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL
MERELY A PROCEDURAL CHANGE IN THE EASTERN POSITION WHEN
IT PROVIDED FOR REDUCTIONS BY SOVIET AND US FORCES ONLY
IN A FIRST STAGE, SOMETHING ON WHICH THE WEST HAS
REPEATEDLY INSISTED AS WELL FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS. HUNGARIAN REP CITED SUCH WESTERN
BEHAVIOUR AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EAST'SOWN INSISTENCE
THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ASSUME
IN A FIRST STAGE GENERAL, BUT CLEARLY FORMULATED
OBLIGATIONS AS REGARDS THEIR REDUCTIONS IN A SECOND
STAGE. FODOR ALSO IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT STATE, THAT
THERE WAS ROUGH PARITY BETWEEN THE FORCES OF EAST
AND WEST IN THE AREA. THE BALANCE OF HIS STATEMENT
CONTRASTED IN STANDARD TERMS THE WESTERN APPROACH TO
REDUCTIONS WITH THE EASTERN ONE AND REAFFIRMED
HUNGARIAN SUPPORT FOR A SUCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FODOR'S PLENARY REMARKS CONSTITUTE THE MOST
POINTED EASTERN REFERENCE HEARD TO DATE IN VIENNA
TO THE AFSENCE OF A WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE EAST'S
JUNE 10 DATA MOVE. EASTERN REPS DID NOT RAISE THE
SUBJECT AT THE JULY 13 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE TALKS. IN
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EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES, EASTERN REPS, WITHOUT
PRESSING THE ISSUE, HAVE SIMPLY CONTINUED TO EXPRESS
THE HOPE THAT COMPARABLE WESTERN FIGURES ON NATO FORCES
IN THE AREA MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE THE END OF THE
CURRENT ROUND.

4. PRIOR TO THE START OF THE JULY 13 INFORMAL SESSION,
SOVIET REP KHLESTOV CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS BEING

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REASSIGNED TO MOSCOW AND THAT NIKOLAY TARASOV WOULD BE THE NEW HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION. TARASOV RECENTLY COMPLETED A FOUR-YEAR ASSIGNMENT AS THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, PRIOR TO WHICH HE AHD SERVED FROM 1968-72 AS A DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UN IN NEW YORK. TARASOV FIRST APPEARED IN VIENNA LAST WEEK AND WILL FORMALLY ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES IN TIME FOR THE START OF THE FALL ROUND.

5. THE JULY 13 INFORMAL SESSION ITSELF WAS UNEVENTFUL. WESTERN REPS MADE THE CASE THAT WHEN A COMPREHENSIVE METHOD OF EVALUATION WAS APPLIED TO OBLIGATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EACH SIDE, THE RESULTS WOULD SHOW THAT, IN ITS PROPOSALS, THE WEST WAS OFFERING AS MUCH AS IT WAS ASKING FROM THE EAST. EASTERN REPS AGAIN PLAYED DOWN THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER 16 NUCLEAR INITIATIVE ON GROUNDS THAT THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO BE WITHDRAWN WERE OBSOLESCENT. THEY STRESSED THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL. EASTERN REPS REPEATED THE CHARGE, WHICH WESTERN REPS REFUTED, THAT THE WESTERN APPROACH VIOLATED DECISIONS MADE DURING THE PREPARATORY TALKS.

6. ON JULY 14, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED, FOR DELIVERY BY LUXEMBOURG REP ON JULY 16, THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE FINAL ORAL REPORT TO THENAC OF THE CURRENT ROUND. THE OUTLINE REFLECTED THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP THAT, UNLESS THE PRESENT PROBLEMS WITHIN NATO CONCERNING THE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE EAST'S JUNE 10 DATA MOVE ARE RESOLVED, THE WEST WILL FACE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES BOTH AS REGARDS THE CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST AND ITS OWN PUBLIC

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